Answers 1 Elements and principles of design – review questions

1 Design can be defined as a process that uses a combination of aesthetic and functional components to create solutions for an identified need. A sketch or plan for work, so that a project can be developed, is also known as a design.

2 Functional design relates to the specific end-use or purpose of an item. Functional design judgements relate to the way in which the item performs its required task. The value of functional design often determines the success of a textile product in the marketplace.

Aesthetic design relates to the visual appeal of an item. It often incorporates a surface decoration or design that enhances the appearance of the textile item. Judgements that are made by individuals in regard to aesthetic design value are often a reflection of personal taste. Aesthetic design judgements can be based on the senses, emotions or intellectual opinions, and can be affected by desire, culture, preferences, education, history, values, beliefs, fads and fashions.

Aesthetic design can be successful for different reasons. It may follow closely the design protocols in harmony with the elements and principles, or it may actually be in complete discord. Good aesthetic design is usually interesting and stimulating at the same time.

3 All designers have a responsibility to ensure the environmental sustainability of their products. Is the design a classic style which will be worn over a number of years? Have the fabrics been produced in an environmentally friendly manner? Has the life cycle of the product ensured it will be friendly to the environment?

4 Elements of design

- Line and direction
- Shape and size
- Texture
- Colour and value

Principles of design

- Proportion
- Balance
- Rhythm
- Emphasis
- Contrast
- Harmony
- Unity

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